

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Advent

The Worship of God begins with the Opening Voluntary.
As you enter, pause for a moment to become aware of God's presence.

December 11, 2016

Eleven o'clock in the morning

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES Madeline McAllister and Emma Phelps

VOLUNTARY *Come Now, Savior of the Nations, BWV 659* J.S. Bach
People, Look East Settings: Robert Edward Smith and Wayne L. Wold

INTROIT Simon Lole
Spirit of God enfold me,
Spirit of God wash me,
Spirit of God fire me,
Spirit of God love me.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 20 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ABERYSTWYTH

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kim Crowley

Minister: Our souls proclaim Your greatness, O God.

Congregation: And our spirits rejoice in You.

Minister: We will praise You as long as we live.

Congregation: We will sing praises to You our whole lives long.

Minister: We will not trust in the power of this world,

Congregation: But will trust in You—Creator of Heaven and earth.

Minister: The One who gives food to the hungry,

Congregation: The One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Minister: Our souls proclaim Your greatness, O God.

Congregation: We worship You in this season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

~ Inspired by Psalm 146 and Luke 1:46-56

*INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 (p.578) Donna Bower

Minister: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**Congregation standing*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Susan Phillips

*We light the candle of joy, rejoicing in God's good will for all creation
and opening ourselves to God's gentle, transforming love. May God fill
us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.*

ANTHEM *Light One Candle*

Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart - He comes, He comes.
Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart - He comes, He comes.
Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.
Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.
He brings love to every heart - He comes, He comes.

Cherub, Carol, and Crusader Choirs ~ Kim Crowley directing

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:46b-55 (p.832)

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord.
Congregation: Praise be to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM from *Gloria*

Antonio Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

Youth and Chancel Choirs

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. Libby Grammer

Minister: Listen—all creation rejoices, can you hear it?

**Congregation: There is so much noise and chatter,
are you sure there is music?**

Minister: Listen—the wilderness and desert are breaking
out in song, can you hear it?

**Congregation: It has been so long since we have heard a
melody of praise.**

Minister: Listen—the crocus blooms with joyful singing,
the very mountains join in the refrain.

**Congregation: We join our voices in joyful hope,
worshipping our God who brings forth a new song.**

~ Inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION 12 *People, Look East*

BESANÇON

*OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Chester Phelps

ANTHEM AT OFFERTORY *Magnificat in F*

Harold Friedell

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
as he promised to our forefathers Abraham, and his seed forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Hymn 592

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Children in grades 1 - 2 may meet Rev. Crowley
at the front of the Sanctuary to continue worship in the chapel.*

SERMON

“Advent Joy”

Dr. Daniel Glaze

TIME OF REFLECTION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Daniel Glaze

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

VOLUNTARY *Come Now, Savior of the Nations, BWV 661*

J.S. Bach

THE CHURCH STAFF

Daniel E. Glaze, D. Min., *Pastor*
Daniel G. Bagby, Ph.D., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Kimberly C. Crowley, M.Div., *Interim Minister to Children*
Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music*
Libby M. Grammer, M. Div., M.A., *Interim Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation*
Chester L. Phelps, Jr., M.A., *Interim Minister of Youth and Visitation*
Billy Burford, *Intentional Interim Church Administrator*
Cassandra D. Ducca, *Communications Specialist* • Zeldia Goode, *Cook / Housekeeper*
Wendy Graves, *Preschool Administrative Assistant* • Kevin Harris, *Building Support Team*
LeAnne K. Lane, *Office Manager* • Lyndsay McGreevy, *Preschool Director*
Terri McMahan, *Administrative Assistant* • Chuck Ursiny, *Building Services Coordinator*
Susan S. Young, *Administrative Assistant*
James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* • Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor Emeritus*
E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST
8000 RIVER ROAD • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23229

WELCOME TO RIVER ROAD CHURCH! Our congregation is an open fellowship gladly receiving those who wish to share in its life and community by request for baptism, statement, or transfer from another church. If you wish to join the church, please indicate this to a staff member prior to the service so we may introduce you.

TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of penitence and preparation.

THE RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP is our opportunity to welcome you to worship. During this time, please sign the register in the maroon binder as it is passed along the row. If you are our guest today, please include contact information.

TO ENHANCE WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN, children's bulletins and worship bags for all ages are in the Narthex (foyer at the back of the Sanctuary). These bags are intended to help children process what they are hearing and seeing as they worship with their families. Please return the bags so they can be used next week. Children in grades 1-2 may meet Rev. Kim Crowley at the front of the Sanctuary on the pulpit side after the Doxology to continue worship in the Chapel.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given to the glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. Lou Moelchert in memory of loved ones.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS are given by Dr. and Mrs. Hilton R. Almond in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Glaze and their daughters, Ella and Ashley, as we welcome them to River Road Church.

EACH SUNDAY MORNING our worship is enriched as laity from our congregation read the Scripture lessons. During Advent, members of some of our ministries and small groups will read the texts and light the candles of the Advent wreath. Reading the text today is Social Committee member Donna Bower, and lighting the Advent candle is Susan Phillips. The Social Committee has arranged and coordinated special times of fellowship and celebration during the past year, a fitting group to light the Advent Candle of Joy.

THE RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP is held in the Fellowship Hall hosted by deacons Peter Showalter, Tracy McGuire, Julia Nixon, Emily King, Theresa Price, and Ken Lantz. Everyone is invited to attend.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Daniel, Andrea, Ella, and Ashley Glaze and Tom and Susan Gilsdorf, who joined our fellowship last Sunday!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR 2017 PLEDGE, so far we have received 221 pledges making up \$1,064,297. Our numbers are currently ahead of where we were last year. Pledge cards can be found in the pew racks.

CBF SEASON OF PRAYER FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS & CHRISTMAS OFFERING
RRCB OFFERING GOAL: \$3,000 ~ This offering is the primary way CBF field personnel are funded, making your gifts an essential part of spreading the Gospel and meeting physical needs in the world. You will find designated envelopes in the pew racks, or you may give online (www.rccb.org/onlinegiving).

THE 2017 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR will be in the Upper Commons following worship today and December 18. Anyone wishing to contribute altar flowers for a Sunday should see Betsy Lowery (804-338-4604). The cost is \$85.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, December 11 **Reception**, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Handbell Choir, 4:15 p.m., Bell Room
Youth Choir, 5:00 p.m., Youth Choir Room
Youth Snack Supper, 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Activities, 6:15 p.m., Youth Area
Chancel Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert,
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Monday, December 12 **Yoga**, 5:45 p.m., Assembly Room
- Tuesday, December 13 **The Comma Club**, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
WMU Connectors, 7:00 p.m., Home of Peggy Stevens
- Wednesday, December 14 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room
Stephen Ministry, 4:30 p.m., Parlor
River Road Camerata, 4:45 p.m., Choir Room
Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Children's Choirs, 6:00 p.m., Choir Room
Chancel Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m., Bell Room
Starlight Service of Remembrance, 6:30 p.m., Chapel
Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m., Parlor
- Thursday, December 15 **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 p.m., Choir Room
- Saturday, December 17 **Leaf Collection Day**, 8:30 a.m., Plaza
Youth Mystery Christmas Party, 11:00 a.m., Offsite

~ Chancel Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert ~

Part of our *E. Carl Freeman Concert Series*, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Handel's *Messiah* Part I, tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reserve your free ticket through Eventbrite online at www.rrcb.org/messiah.

~ News in the Pews ~

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Following the lead of the pew cards, you are encouraged to pick up a copy of the *Connections*, our Sunday newsletter, in the entrance foyers of the Sanctuary or the Lower Commons, to find out more information about these events and more!

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program ~ December 14 Starlight Service of Remembrance

As Christmas approaches, the Starlight Service of Remembrance is a time of worship to reflect on the year, especially for those who have experienced life-changing events, whether through death, loss of a relationship, loss of job, loss of health, or other significant events. Additionally, it is for those who support and love those who have experienced loss and hardship. In this service, we are reminded that wherever we are on life's journey, whether in good times or hardship, we are not alone.

Dinner Menu: Poppy Seed Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn & Lima Beans, Dinner Rolls, Apple & Cherry Cobbler

Dinner reservations are required each week. Please make your reservation by tomorrow, Monday, **December 12** at 11:00 a.m. You may make your reservation by calling the church office or filling out the form online (www.rrcb.org/wednesdays). Reservation cards are no longer available in the pew racks. Weekly Costs: Adults & Youth - \$7/each; Children - \$3/each; Family Max - \$20

Services of Advent and Christmastide 2016

For more information about these events and services, please visit our website at
www.rrcb.org/advent.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

A limited number of books are available in the Upper Commons, Lower Commons, Narthex, and Sunday School classrooms.

Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent by Pamela C. Hawkins, published by the *UpperRoom*

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

December 4, 2016 - January 1, 2017
Offering envelopes are in pew racks, or you may contribute online.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

Sunday, December 11, 2016
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Chancel Choir with Orchestra
Handel's *Messiah* Part 1
Please note our new ticketing process through Eventbrite; Reserve your free tickets at www.rrcb.org/messiah
Childcare not provided

STARLIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
6:30 p.m., Chapel
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Reservations required at www.rrcb.org/wednesdays
Childcare provided

YOUTH MYSTERY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 17, 2016
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Offsite

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 18, 2016
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Childcare provided

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 2016
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Please note the earlier start time.
Missions Offering: Non-perishable food items wrapped in white paper
Childcare not provided; children participate in the service

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE & HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, December 24, 2016
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Meditation by Daniel Glaze
Childcare not provided

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, 2016
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
No Sunday School
Childcare not provided

LABYRINTH WALK & PERSONAL MEDITATION

Saturday, December 31, 2016
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1, 2017
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
No Sunday School
Childcare provided

EPIPHANY SERVICE

Wednesday, January 4, 2017
6:30 p.m., Chapel
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Reservations required at www.rrcb.org/wednesdays
Childcare provided

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

December 26 & December 27, 2016
January 2 & January 3, 2017